SHADOW STRIKES
19
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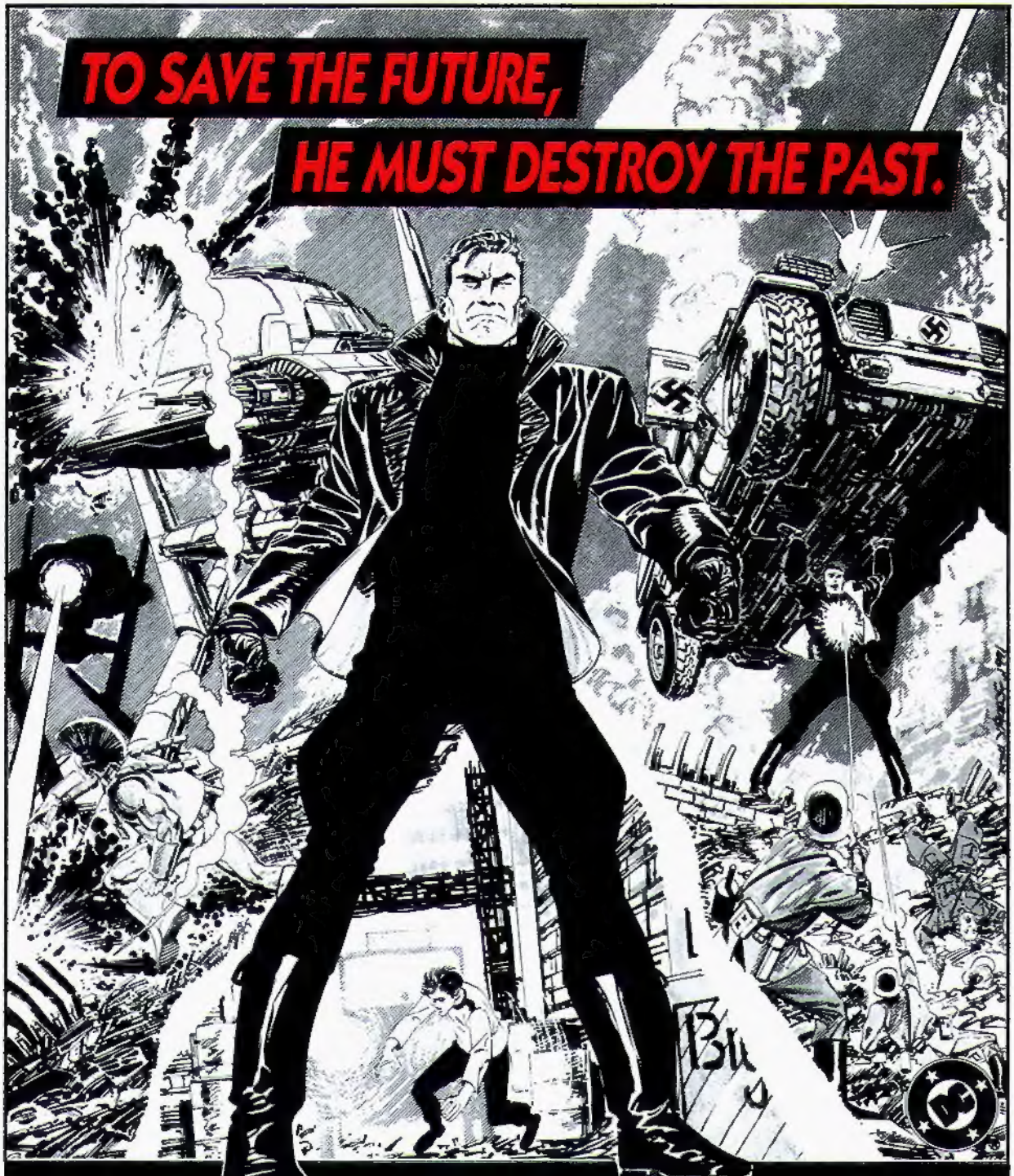
THE Shadow STRIKES!
"THE STRIKE"
by Gerard Jones & Mark Badger



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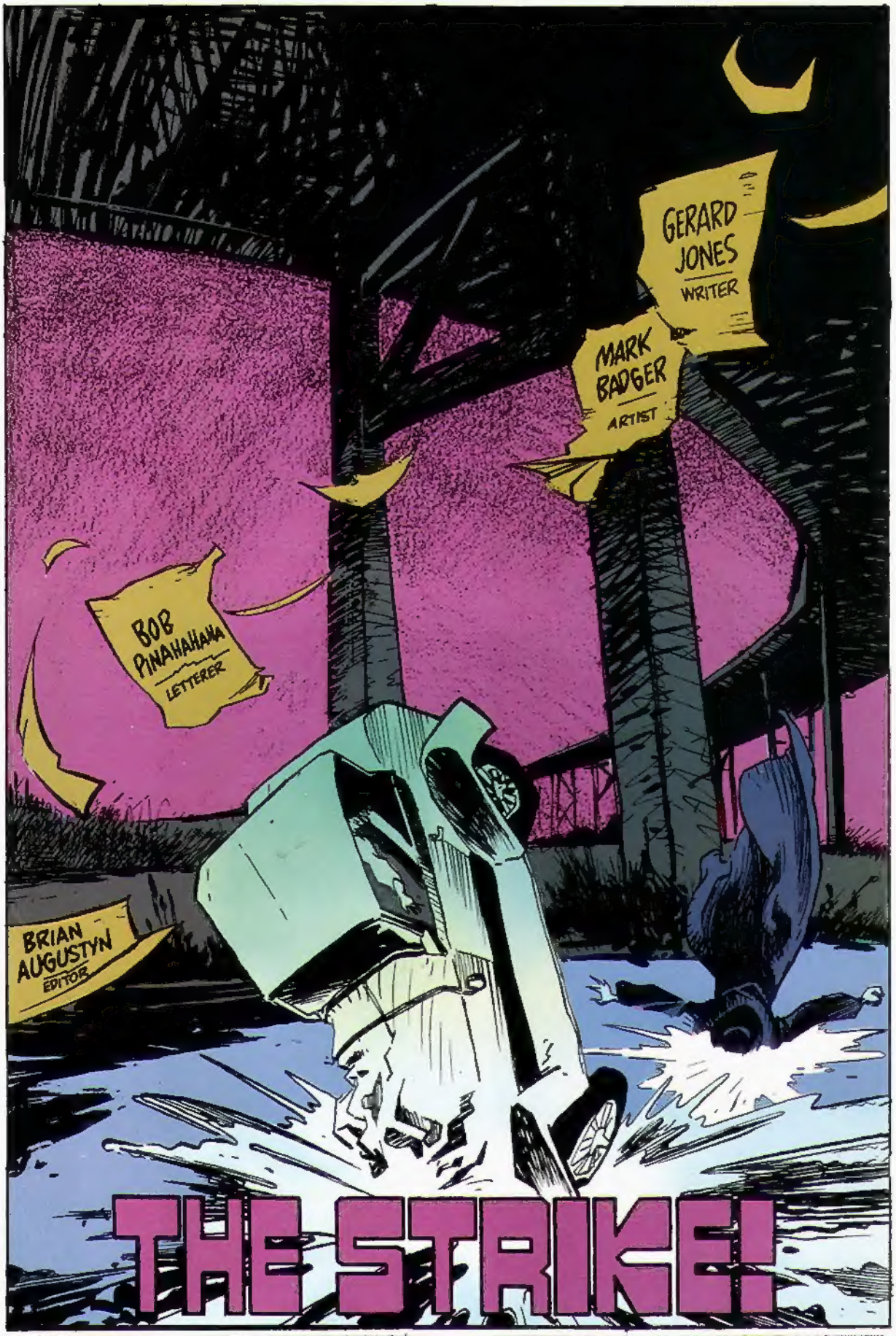

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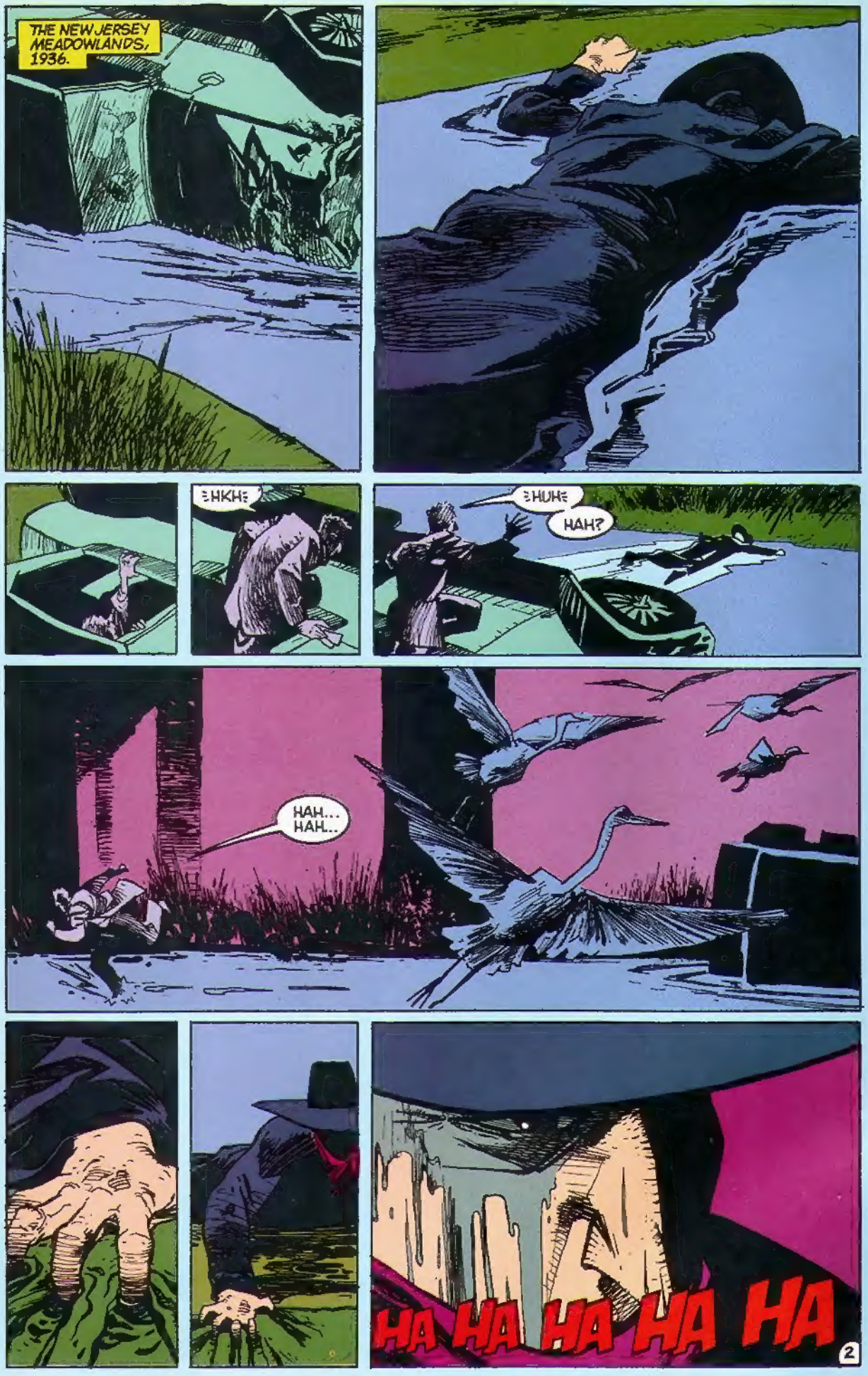
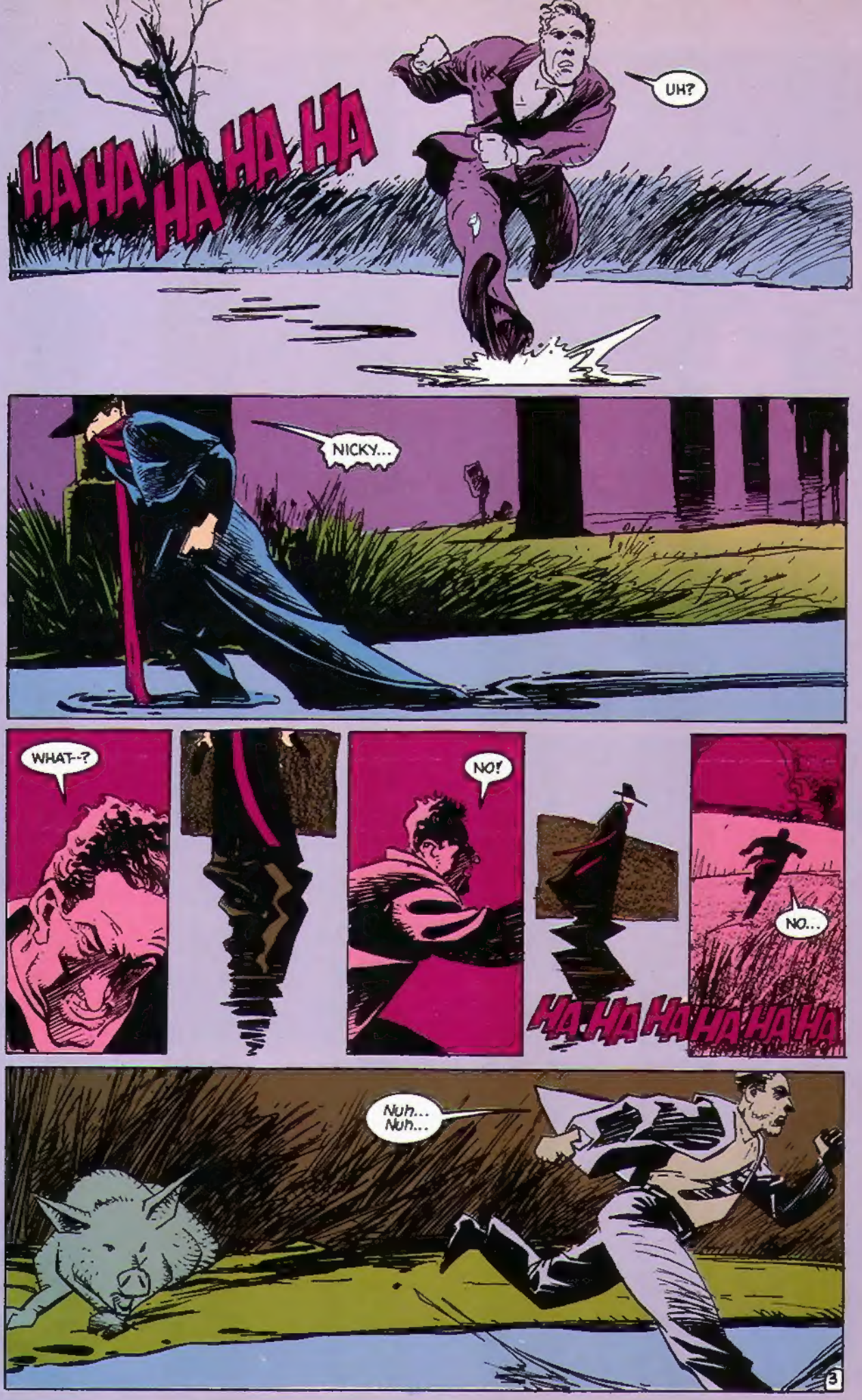
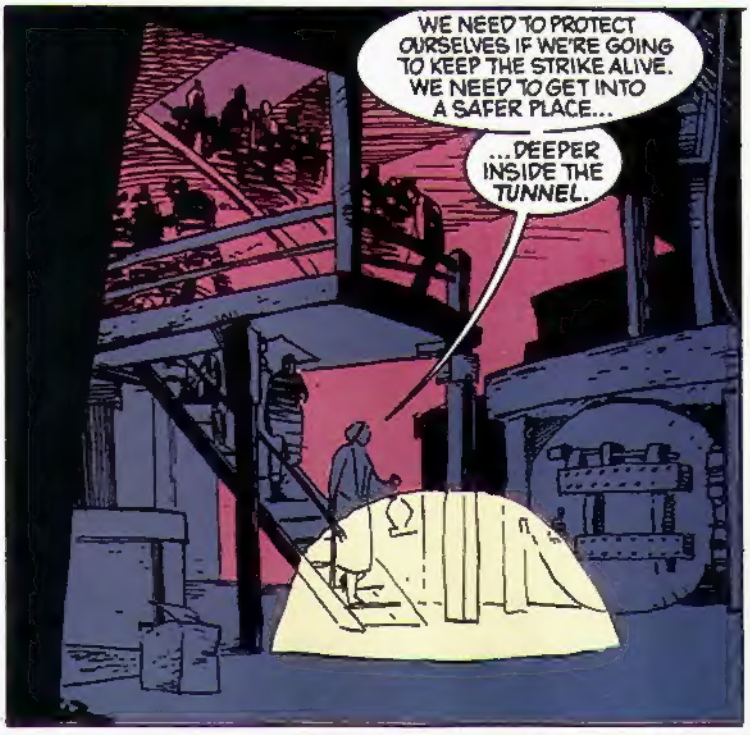
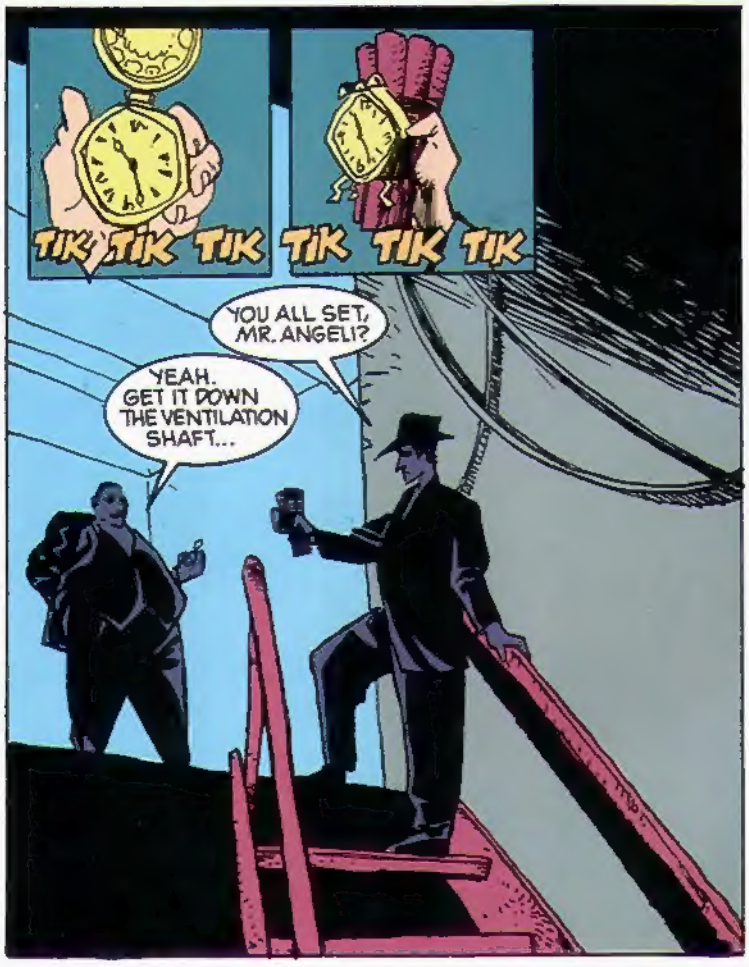

THE NEW JERSEY MEADOWLANDS, 1936.
=HKH=
=HUH=
HAH?
HAH... HAH...
HA HA HA HA HA
2


HA HA HA HA HA
UH?
NICKY...
WHAT--?
NO!
NO...
HA HA HA HA HA HA
Nuh... Nuh...

WE HAVE TO EXPECT MORE ATTACKS. ANGELI AND HIS HENCHMEN ARE DETERMINED TO BREAK THIS STRIKE...

...AND NOW THE POLICE ARE SURROUNDING THE TUNNEL MOUTH.
IF IT ISN'T STRIKEBREAKERS NEXT TIME--IT MIGHT BE THE COPS THEMSELVES.

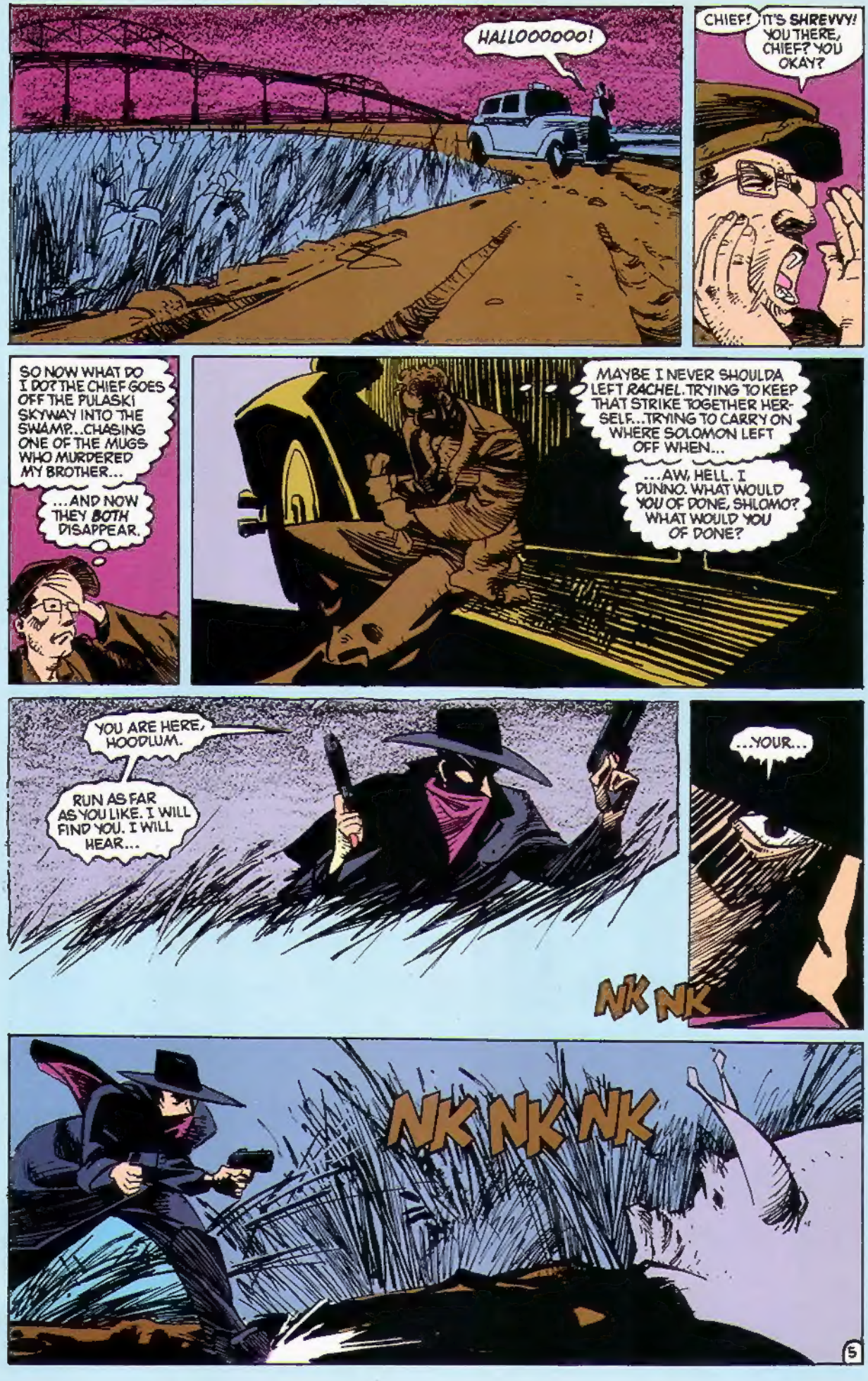

WE NEED TO PROTECT OURSELVES IF WE'RE GOING TO KEEP THE STRIKE ALIVE. WE NEED TO GET INTO A SAFER PLACE...
...DEEPER INSIDE THE TUNNEL.


TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK
YOU ALL SET, MR. ANGELI?
YEAH. GET IT DOWN THE VENTILATION SHAFT...

"...AND BE CAREFUL WITH THAT DAMN THING--

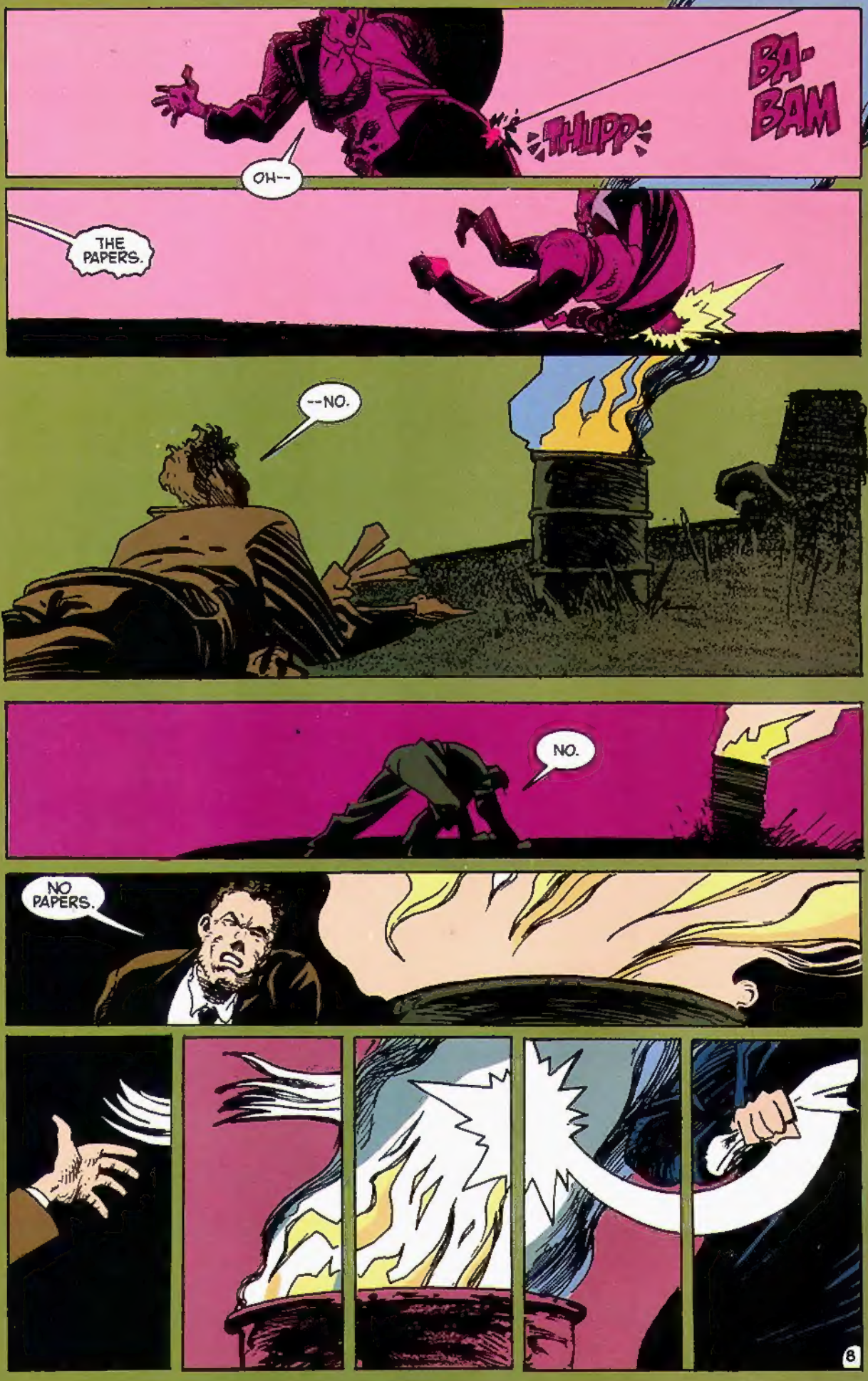
"-- I DON'T WANT THIS TUNNEL BLOWIN' YET...

"...NOT WHILE I'M IN IT."
4


HALLOOOOOO!
CHIEF! IT'S SHREVVY! YOU THERE, CHIEF? YOU OKAY?
SO NOW WHAT DO I DO? THE CHIEF GOES OFF THE PULASKI SKYWAY INTO THE SWAMP...CHASING ONE OF THE MUGS WHO MURDERED MY BROTHER...
...AND NOW THEY BOTH DISAPPEAR.
MAYBE I NEVER SHOULDA LEFT RACHEL. TRYING TO KEEP THAT STRIKE TOGETHER HERSELF...TRYING TO CARRY ON WHERE SOLOMON LEFT OFF WHEN...
...AW, HELL. I DUNNO. WHAT WOULD YOU OF DONE, SHLOMO? WHAT WOULD YOU OF DONE?
YOU ARE HERE, HOODLUM.
RUN AS FAR AS YOU LIKE. I WILL FIND YOU. I WILL HEAR...
...YOUR...
NK NK
NK NK NK
5

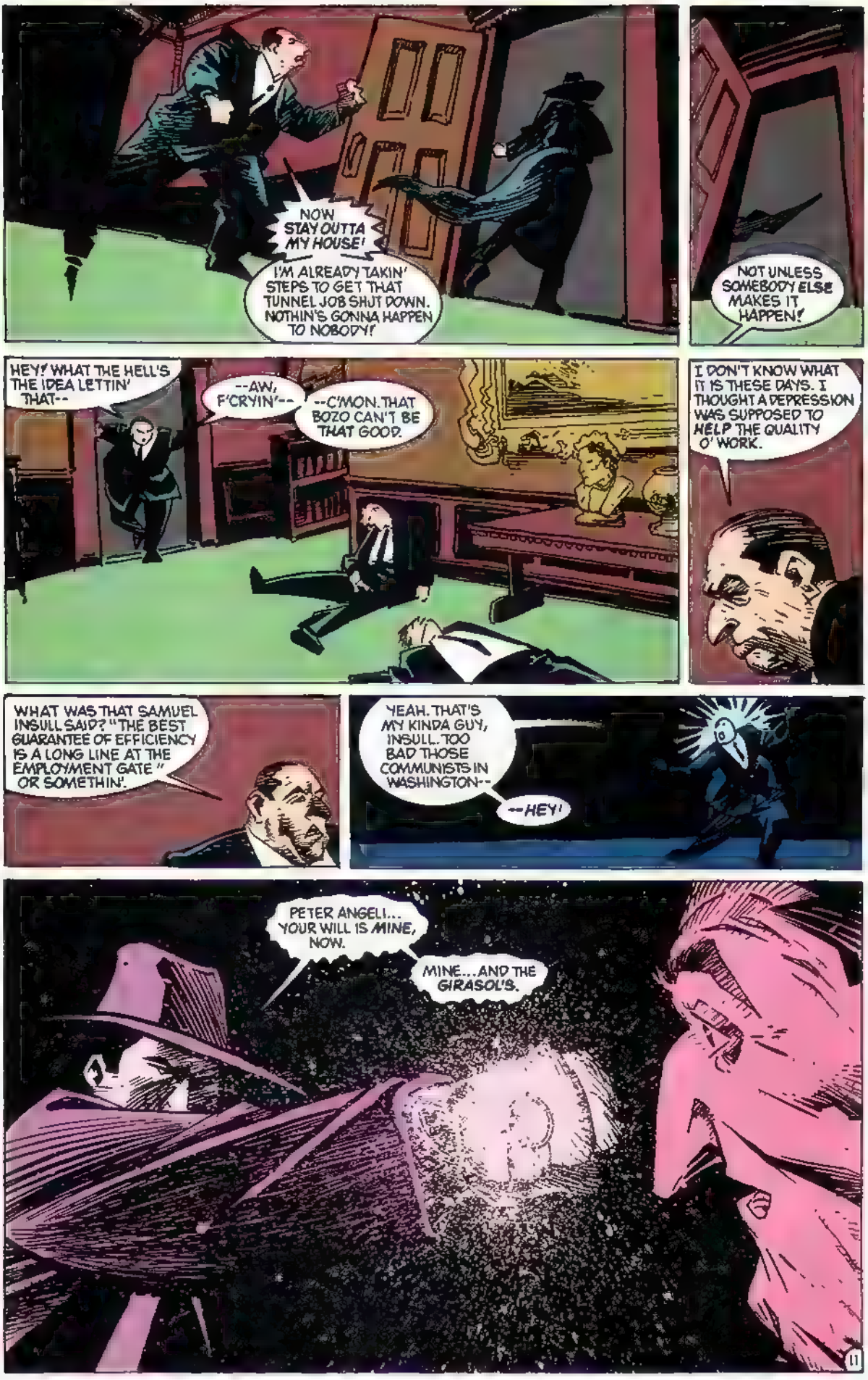
=HUH=
GOTTA--
=HUH=
--GOTTA BE A CAR...
...A WORKING CAR...SOMEWHERE... IN THIS...
GIVE ME THE PAPERS, NICKY.

CHAM CHAM CHAM
ZING ZING ZING
OH, GOD--
--WHERE DID YOU GO?
WHERE DID YOU--
THE PAPERS, NICKY.
BA BAM
CHAMCHAM
KWEEEEE
--OH, GOD--OH, GOD--
7

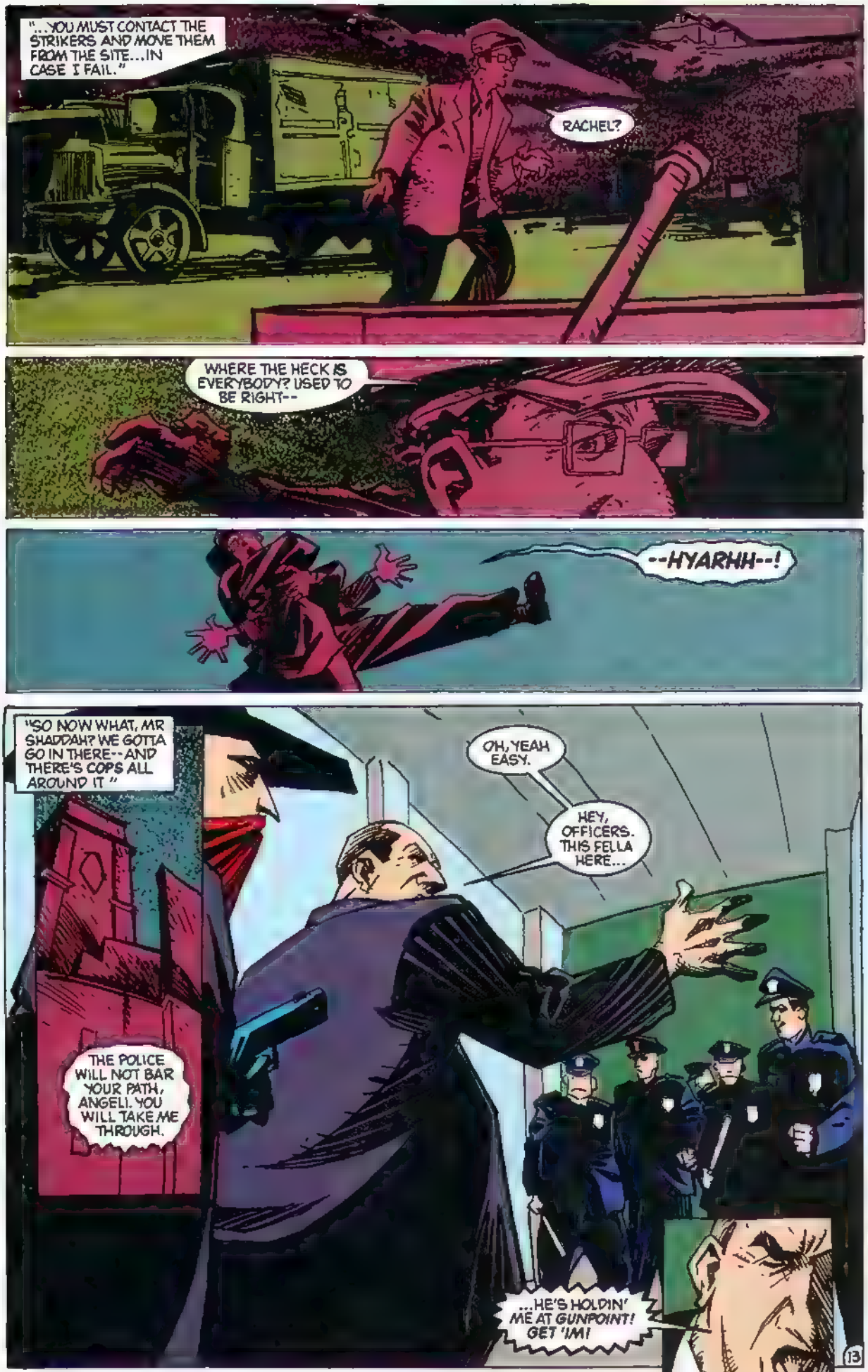

BA-BAM
THUPP
OH--
THE PAPERS.
--NO.
NO.
NO PAPERS.

WHAT ARE YOU? FOR GOD'S SAKE--WHAT ARE YOU?!
YOU'RE HUMAN.
YOU'RE HUMAN.
YOU GOTTA BE!
BAM
=UMPH=
THANK YOU, NICKY.
FOR THE PAPERS.
HEY! HEY, CHIEF!
WITH THAT MUCH SHOOTIN' GOIN' ON, I KNOW IT'S GOTTA BE YOU!
9

TIK TIK TIK TIK
CHT
FIFTY MINUTES, FIFTY MINUTES.
MOTHER MARY, I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THIS IS OVER.
IT IS OVER, PETER ANGELI.
THWAP
THE SHADOW KNOWS WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.
GET AWAY FROM ME!
I COULD HAVE YOU SHOT-- DOES THE SHADOW KNOW THAT?
I KNOW THAT YOUR TUNNEL IS A TUNNEL OF DEATH, PETER ANGELI. YOUR OWN ENGINEERS' REPORTS SHOW THAT YOU SCRIMPED ON ESSENTIAL COSTS...
...THAT YOU DUG IT TOO NEAR THE SURFACE...
...THAT AT ANY MOMENT IT MAY COLLAPSE!
AND I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE COHORTS IN THE STATE CAPITAL, COHORTS WILLING TO HOLD THESE REPORTS...TO RELEASE THEM ONLY WHEN IT BENEFITS YOU.
BUT I DO NOT KNOW YET WHAT YOU EXPECT TO HAPPEN IN FIFTY MINUTES.
THAT...YOU WILL TELL ME, PETER ANGELI
AND WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T? YOU GONNA SHOOT ME?
I'VE HEARD A FEW THINGS ABOUT "THE SHADDA." GANGLAND'S DOOM, DEFENDER OF THE INNOCENT, ALL THAT...
...IS THE SHADDAH GONNA SHOOT A RESPECTED BUILDER JUST 'CAUSE HE BUNGLED SOME PLANS?
10


NOW STAY OUTTA MY HOUSE!
I'M ALREADY TAKIN' STEPS TO GET THAT TUNNEL JOB SHUT DOWN. NOTHIN'S GONNA HAPPEN TO NOBODY!
NOT UNLESS SOMEBODY ELSE MAKES IT HAPPEN!
HEY! WHAT THE HELL'S THE IDEA LETTIN' THAT--
--AW, F'CRYIN'--
--C'MON. THAT BOZO CAN'T BE THAT GOOD.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS THESE DAYS. I THOUGHT A DEPRESSION WAS SUPPOSED TO HELP THE QUALITY O' WORK.
WHAT WAS THAT SAMUEL INSULL SAID? "THE BEST GUARANTEE OF EFFICIENCY IS A LONG LINE AT THE EMPLOYMENT GATE" OR SOMETHIN'.
YEAH. THAT'S MY KINDA GUY, INSULL. TOO BAD THOSE COMMUNISTS IN WASHINGTON--
--HEY!
PETER ANGELI... YOUR WILL IS MINE, NOW.
MINE... AND THE GIRASOL'S.

THE TRUTH, ANGELI. THE RING DEMANDS IT.
YOU HAVE SOMEHOW SABOTAGED THE TUNNEL... ARRANGED A DISASTER THAT WILL BE BLAMED UPON THE STRIKING UNION...
...THAT WILL EMPOWER YOU TO KEEP YOUR ILL-GOTTEN PUBLIC FUNDS FROM THIS TUNNEL... THAT WILL FREE YOU TO BEGIN A NEW TUNNEL...
..UNENCUMBERED BY ORGANIZED LABOR!
THE TRUTH, ANGELI. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
A BOMB... A BOMB... IN THE VENTILATION SHAFT... WAY AT THE BACK...
ANGELI.
YOU WILL TAKE ME TO THE BOMB.
I WANT YOU CONSCIOUS, ANGELI.
OKAY! OKAY! JUST DON'T SHOOT ME!
TO THE TUNNEL SITE, SHREVNITZ...


"...YOU MUST CONTACT THE STRIKERS AND MOVE THEM FROM THE SITE...IN CASE I FAIL."
RACHEL?
WHERE THE HECK IS EVERYBODY? USED TO BE RIGHT--
--HYARHH--!
"SO NOW WHAT, MR SHADDAH? WE GOTTA GO IN THERE--AND THERE'S COPS ALL AROUND IT."
OH, YEAH EASY.
HEY, OFFICERS. THIS FELLA HERE...
THE POLICE WILL NOT BAR YOUR PATH, ANGEL! YOU WILL TAKE ME THROUGH.
...HE'S HOLDIN' ME AT *GUNPOINT!* GET 'IM!
13

I GOTTA TALK TO RACHEL SHREVNITZ, D'YA HEAR ME? I'M HER BROTHER-IN-LAW! I--
MOE?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN$, MOE? WE CAN'T LEAVE! THIS IS A SIT-DOWN STRIKE!
--RACHEL-- YOU GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
I GOT HIM! I GWHUHH--!
GRAB HIS ARMS, SOMEBODY GRAKH--!
HE CAN'T BEAT US ALLLPFF!

NOW WE GOT 'IM!
TIK TIK TIK TIK
THROW HIM FLAT!
ATTAWAY!
OKAY! WHO'S GOT HIM? CUFF HIM!
WHO GOT TO YOU, MOE? WHO BOUGHT YOU OFF?
LOOK, I'M TELLING YOU, RACHEL! ON SOL'S BODY, I SWEAR TO YOU... IT'S A BOMB!
NO. I DON'T BELIEVE IT. ANGEL! WANTS US OUT OF HERE. HE'D SAY ANYTHING--!
SAY ANYTHING?! HE'D DO ANYTHING!
HE WANTS YOU OUT SO BAD--HE'S GONNA MAKE THE HUDSON RIVER BLAST YOU OUT!

TIK TIK TIK TIK
HEY! I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU--
BUT I DID, I TELL YA! I HAD 'M! I HAD 'M!
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
I AM GOING THROUGH YOU, MAN. BY ONE MEANS...
...OR...
SHHAP
TIK TIK TIK
PAK
GET UP. COME ON. GET UP!
OR MAYBE YOU DON'T HAVE THE B--
TIK TIK TIK
16

BA BA BA BAM
--BUH--
BUH--
BWAK
...OR ANOTHER.
TIK-TIK-TIK TIK TIK TIK-TIK
17

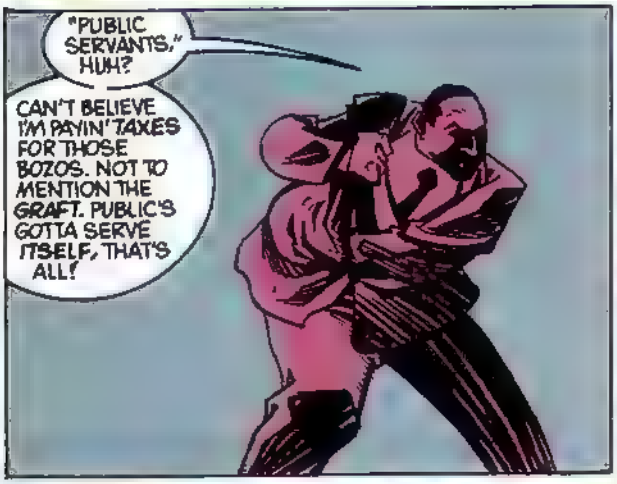
BOOM
HSSSSSS
SHHHH
SHOOOOM
BLOW OUT! BLOW OUT!
UP THE LADDER!
RUN! RUN! RUN!

SHOOSH
WE MADE IT...
...WE MADE IT...
SHHHHHH
FFSHHH
HOK HOK
GET THIS...KAK... DUST OUTTA HERE!
HA HA HA HA! GOOM-BYE, MISTER SHADDAH!
AN' GOOM-BYE, UNION! HA HA!
TURN ON THE FANS, BOYS!
TIME WE LET A LITTLE FRESH AIR IN HERE! HA HA HAK-HAK!

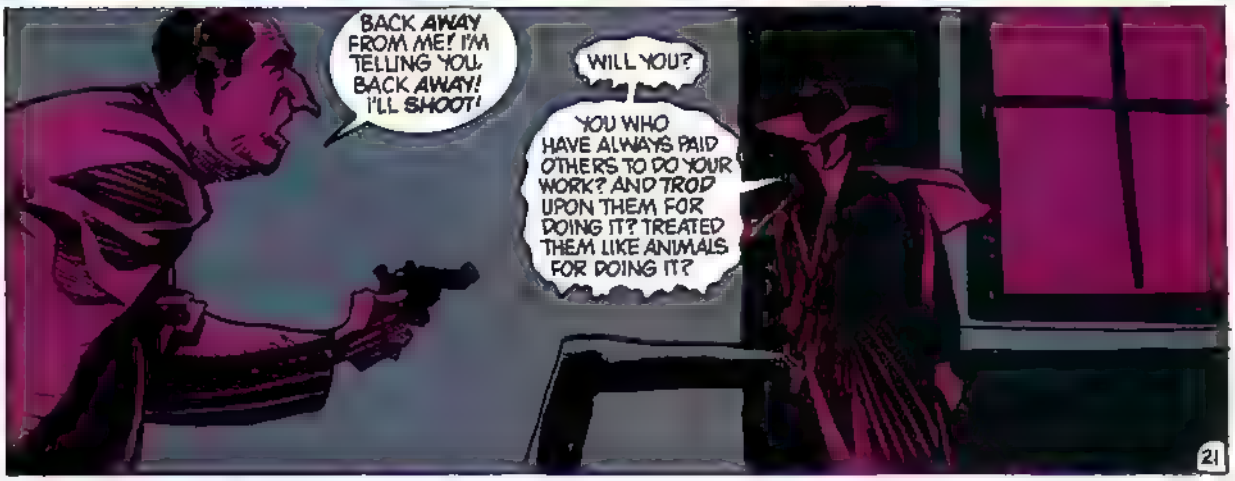
VVVRRREEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EVERYBODY...
DID WE ALL MAKE IT?
EVERYBODY ACCOUNTED FOR?
...BUT THE CHIEF.
HA! I KNEW THOSE CRAZY AGITATORS WOULD CAUSE SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
BLOWIN' UP A TUNNEL! DESTROYIN' THEMSELVES!
JUST LIKE A RED! HA!
HA! HA! HA!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
20

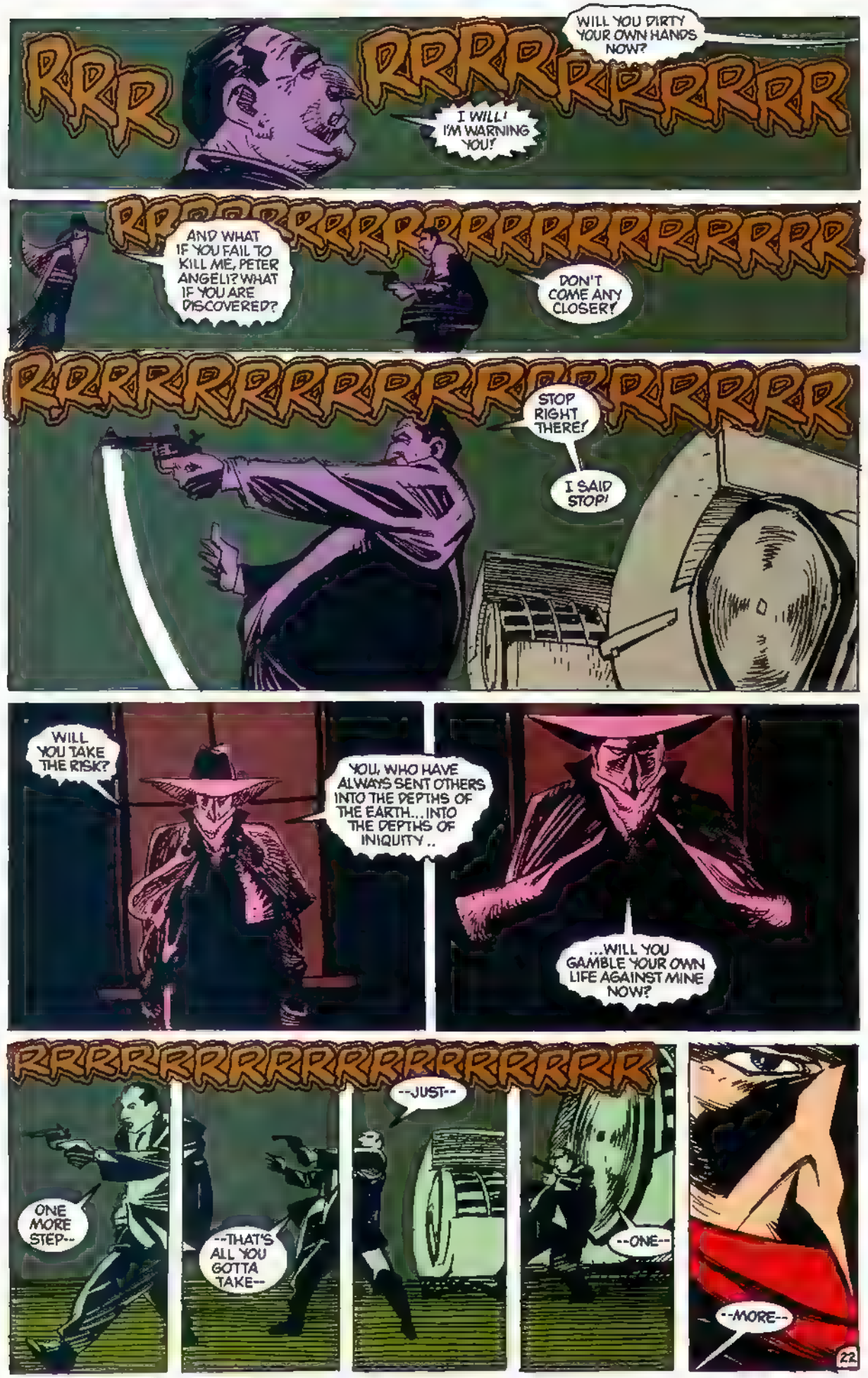
GET THIS GUY! GET THIS GUY!
OH, JEEZ-- HE'S BACK!

THIS--THIS IS OUTSIDE OUR ORDERS!
WE BETTER GET THE CAP'N!
HEY! HEY!


"PUBLIC SERVANTS," HUH?
CAN'T BELIEVE I'M PAYIN' TAXES FOR THOSE BOZOS. NOT TO MENTION THE GRAFT. PUBLIC'S GOTTA SERVE ITSELF, THAT'S ALL!

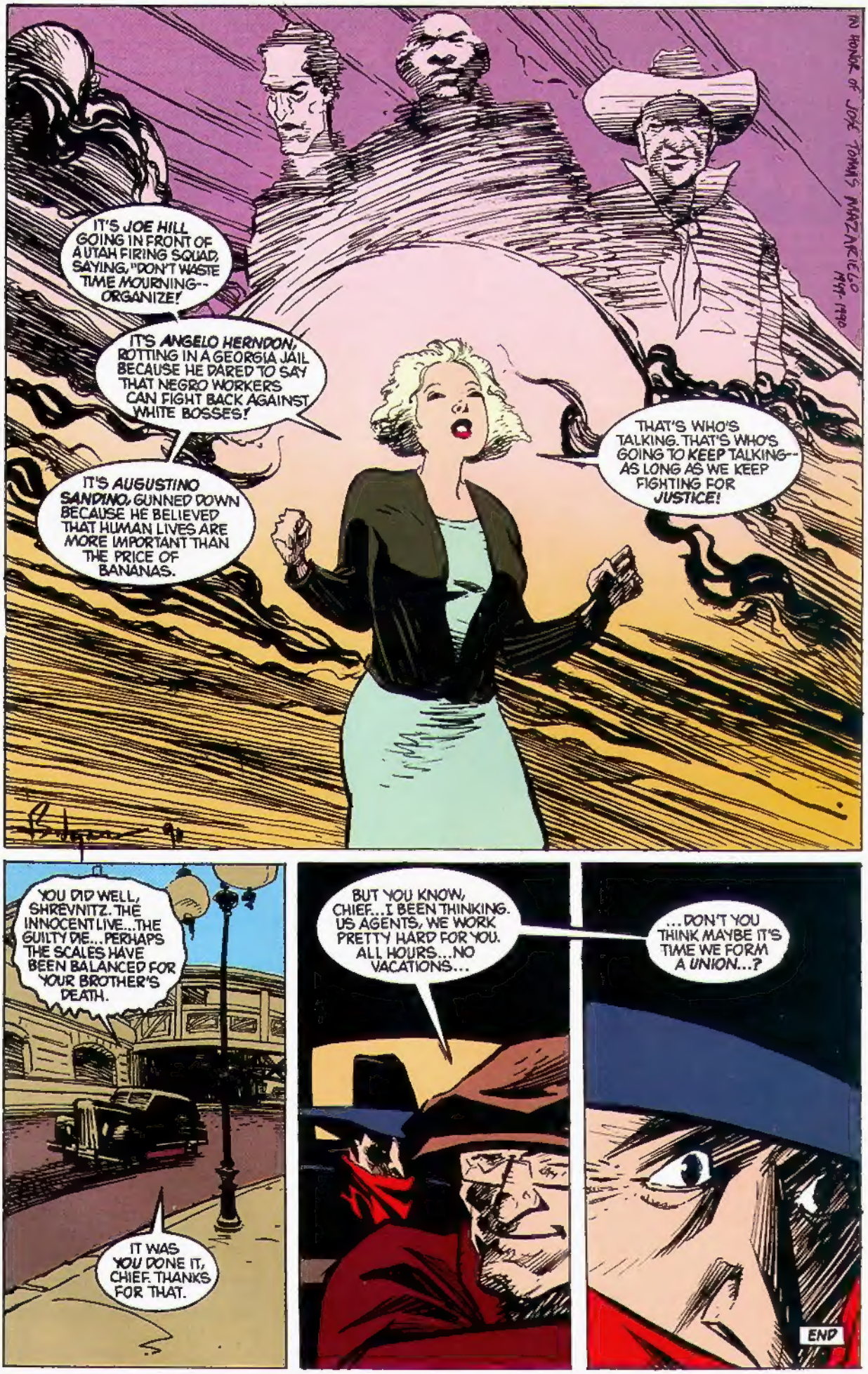
I GOTTA DO THIS PERSONAL!


BACK AWAY FROM ME! I'M TELLING YOU, BACK AWAY! I'LL SHOOT!
WILL YOU?
YOU WHO HAVE ALWAYS PAID OTHERS TO DO YOUR WORK? AND TROD UPON THEM FOR DOING IT? TREATED THEM LIKE ANIMALS FOR DOING IT?


RRR
RRRRRRRRRRRR
WILL YOU DIRTY YOUR OWN HANDS NOW?
I WILL! I'M WARNING YOU!
AND WHAT IF YOU FAIL TO KILL ME, PETER ANGELI? WHAT IF YOU ARE DISCOVERED?
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
STOP RIGHT THERE!
I SAID STOP!
WILL YOU TAKE THE RISK?
YOU, WHO HAVE ALWAYS SENT OTHERS INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH... INTO THE DEPTHS OF INIQUITY..
...WILL YOU GAMBLE YOUR OWN LIFE AGAINST MINE NOW?
ONE MORE STEP--
--THAT'S ALL YOU GOTTA TAKE--
--JUST--
--ONE--
--MORE--
22

AAAAAAA
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
HA HA HA HA HA HA
23

HA HA HA HA
Y'KNOW... CONSIDERING THAT I HARDLY EVER HEAR IT UNLESS SOMEBODY'S JUST CROAKED...
...I SURE DO LOVE THAT SOUND.
MOE?
I'M... SORRY FOR WHAT I THOUGHT, MOE... I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D NEVER...
AW, FORGET ABOUT IT, RACHEL. I'M JUST GLAD I FINALLY GOTCHA TO BELIEVE ME.
A LOT OF MEN WOULD HAVE DIED IF I HADN'T. I DON'T WANT ANY MORE MEN TO DIE, MOE.
I KNOW, RACHEL. I KNOW.
BUT YOU KNOW... I THINK MY LITTLE BROTHER WOULD HAVE SAID...THERE'S SOME THINGS WORTH DYING FOR.
IT'S FUNNY, MOE. MAYBE I'M JUST SENTIMENTAL, BUT...YOU SOUNDED SO MUCH LIKE SOLOMON JUST THEN.
NAW. I NEVER COULD TALK LIKE HE COULD.
BUT YOU CAN, RACHEL. YOU GOT THAT SAME GIFT... TO MAKE PEOPLE LISTEN...TO MAKE PEOPLE KEEP TRYING...
IT'S NOT ME TALKING, MOE. IT'S MANKIND.
24


IN HONOR OF JOE TOM'S MAZARIEGO MAY 1990
IT'S JOE HILL GOING IN FRONT OF A UTAH FIRING SQUAD, SAYING, "DON'T WASTE TIME MOURNING--ORGANIZE!
IT'S ANGELO HERNDON, ROTTING IN A GEORGIA JAIL BECAUSE HE DARED TO SAY THAT NEGRO WORKERS CAN FIGHT BACK AGAINST WHITE BOSSES!
IT'S AUGUSTINO SANDINO, GUNNED DOWN BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THAT HUMAN LIVES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PRICE OF BANANAS.
THAT'S WHO'S TALKING. THAT'S WHO'S GOING TO KEEP TALKING--AS LONG AS WE KEEP FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE!
YOU DID WELL, SHREVNITZ. THE INNOCENT LIVE...THE GUILTY DIE...PERHAPS THE SCALES HAVE BEEN BALANCED FOR YOUR BROTHER'S DEATH.
IT WAS YOU DONE IT, CHIEF. THANKS FOR THAT.
BUT YOU KNOW, CHIEF...I BEEN THINKING. US AGENTS, WE WORK PRETTY HARD FOR YOU. ALL HOURS...NO VACATIONS...
...DON'T YOU THINK MAYBE IT'S TIME WE FORM A UNION...?
END

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Hello! Dan Thorsland here, plunking away at his trusty Smith Corona. You kind folk may have noticed the rather sporadic appearances of a lettercol in the pages of THE SHADOW STRIKES! lately, mostly due to Brian's busy schedule and Gerard being immersed in the Thrill of Creation. Not wanting our faithful readers' missives to go unanswered, Brian kindly asked me to step in and keep THE SHADOW KNOWS a regular feature in the pages of this comic. So, without further delay, I'll dig into the stack of mail covering the Chicago Mob storyline in issues #12-15!

Dear Brian,

Re: THE SHADOW STRIKES! #12. Oh mercy! The Shadow hits Capone-era Chicago! Ol' Scarface is in prison, with his bully boys trying to pick up the pieces, only to face the Dark Avenger. Oh, if only this were before Eliot Ness had nabbed Capone! What a tale that would make!

Hmm, this starts off the same way the Shiwan Khan case did, just about, with the Shadow only appearing at the end of the first chapter. A familiar pattern is forming here—another example of why Gerard is getting all the rave notices for his work. You know the cliché, "If something works, you stick with it."

Now if you could reach back and consider teaming the Shadow with the Untouchables, establish a sort of working relationship, à la the Batman and Commissioner Gordon, perhaps that could help establish a bit of background for this adventure. The Shadow vs. Al Capone. The mind boggles thinking about this coupling. Have mercy!

Can't wait for part two. See you in thirty.

Jacob Gilbert
Troy, NY

I have to admit, the thought of Al Capone and The Shadow "coupling" really does boggle the mind! Yuk! But seriously, Jacob, I doubt that teaming The Shadow with anyone he couldn't totally control would be anything other than extremely tricky, and Eliot Ness would be the most unlikely person to cooperate with anyone as secretive as our fellow with the blazing .45's.

* * * * *

Hey, Brian,

Re: THE SHADOW STRIKES! #12. Thanks for another excellent issue. But when can I look forward to seeing some pin-ups rendered by Tim Truman, Flint Henry, and John K. Snyder?!

Uncle Elvis
Clarksville, TN

Brian?

* * * * *

Dear Brian,

Nice story set-up in THE SHADOW STRIKES! #12. With this much careful development, I sense a great deal of action next issue. If you ask me, we were treated to two pin-ups this month, and I enjoyed them both.

Melissa Page
Nortonville, KY

I can't agree more, Melissa. Not too long ago an artist who was visiting the DC offices flipped through the stack of art for #12, and when he saw the last page, shook his head in awe and said Eduardo was "the king of the big payoffs." It is comforting to know that if Gerry waits until the last page to put The Shadow into the story, Eduardo always manages to rise to the occasion!

* * * * *

Dear Brian:

I have been very impressed—no, scratch that—ecstatic with this new Shadow title. I had planned to say something heretical, like Gerard Jones is a better writer than Walter Gibson—BUT—then remembered reading an interview with Mr. Gibson. In this interview he said that once the original Shadow Magazine went to twice monthly, he had to turn out something like 28 complete, finished, typewritten pages a day!! When one considers that this was before the age of Liquid Paper®, much less electric typewriters or word processors—well... It would have been most unfair of me to make a comparison. I realize the time frame for comics production is often very tight indeed, but I doubt it ever gets *that* hectic. But let me say that Mr. Jones does a really outstanding job of writing for today's audience. I mean *really* outstanding. He has captured the feel of the original while modernizing the dialogue. I can't say enough about the art, either. Magnificent!! Really, everything about this book is great.

I noticed there seems to be a trend at DC toward "quarterlies." Is it possible? Do we dare hope that a Shadow quarterly will appear? Say, one that illo'd the original Shadow novels? Hint, hint.

Until you give the Shadow tights (as one of your competitors once tried), I'll remain with you.

Jon S. Aiken
Atlanta, GA

Don't worry, Jon, everyone on this book likes the idea of a main character you can mimic on Halloween, and I for one wouldn't be caught dead wearing tights in public!

* * * * *

Dear Shadowphiles:

Letters from Shadowbuffs would be the most important and most interesting part of any issue, so why do you keep leaving out the letter column? Lack of communication with the readers helped kill DOC SAVAGE, too.

As for THE SHADOW STRIKES! #14, we'll soon find out if even The Shadow can make mistakes, or admit his culpability to Cardona. Just who is messing up whom, and just who is more justified in his actions? Only other thing I know for sure is that Guzik and Nitti are going to survive, and not to rule over nothing.

Good art by Eduardo Barreto—just wish I had confirmation that people were seeing it. Too much emphasis on Margo and Harry—how about some spotlights on the lesser-known agents? Jericho Druke never got *any* mention in the 1970's series.

Charles D. Brown
Brentwood, NY

As long as I can get ribbons for my typewriter, I'll be chatting with you kind people on a regular basis, and even if I break every bone in my body, Gerard and Brian will always read every letter this book gets.

As for the Shadow's other agents, keep reading—the upcoming issues just may answer your requests.

* * * * *

Dear Gerard,

Wow, this story is really getting interesting! So you've split Antonio Sbarbarro and George Katomeris from Jake Guzik and Frank Nitti. Blood will be flowing in #15. Poor Tad, help the poor guy out, will ya? Have Rutledge Mann give him some inside info so he can raise another

fortune. Also, on the last page where the Shadow requires all the agents, you won't forget all the agents, will you? Like: Claude Fellows (or is he dead yet), Rutledge Mann, Clyde Burke, Cliff Marsland, Dr. Sayre, Slade Farrow, Tapper, Pietro, Jericho Druke, Chance Lebrue, Dr. Tam, Myra Reldon, and the ones you've already shown: Harry Vincent, Margo Lane, Moe Shrevnitz, and Hawkeye. Show some villains, eh? Benedict Stark, Diamond Bert Farwell, and Dr. Rodil Mocquino (voodoo master). Oh, Eduardo, your art is fantastic!

Todd Proodian
(address not provided)

I notified Gerard and Eduardo of your request to see all the agents in a single issue. The doctor told me the fits of nervous exhaustion should soon pass!

* * * * *

Dear Gerard,

Instead of discussing this month's story (great as ever, by the way) I'd like to respond to your response to my letter, which you were kind enough to print this month. When I suggested that you utilize The Shadow's ability to hide in dark or shadow, you replied that you found it difficult to depict. After all, you reasoned, if we can see The Shadow hiding and the villain can't, that just causes either the villain or the writer to appear foolish. You then asked for suggestions on how to accomplish this effect. Well, I'm going to take you at your word.

I agree that depicting a scene the way you describe it would not be effective. The way to do it would be to start from the point of view of the person The Shadow is concealing himself from, and then either take a slightly different point of view, let the reader be there when he comes out of hiding, or let us see the effect of his concealment.

Here are a couple of scenes to show you what I mean. In the first, three villains are gathered around a round table. There's a table cloth that doesn't reach the ground, but creates a dark effect underneath. The villains discuss their secret plan. At the conclusion, they laugh about what a surprise it will be, and how no one could expect what they were up to. Congratulating themselves, they leave the room. For one comics panel, we see the empty room. Then, The Shadow rolls out from under the table. Signature laugh.

Scene #2. Margo is sitting in a study with a villain, undercover as always. There comes a knock at the door. Villain gets up, walks down a short, dark alcove and opens the door. Nobody is there. Villain returns to Margo. She says she's tired and they say goodnight. As the villain leaves the room, The Shadow appears beside her. "Where did you come from?" she asks, startled. He replies that he entered when Villain opened door. "But neither of us saw you!" Signature laugh.

I'm no writer, but this gives you an idea of what I have in mind. I'll just repeat here that I think it's important that you show this ability of The Shadow at least once in each story, as it is such an important part of the legend and what made him such a compelling pulp character.

Larry Feldman
Denver, CO

I'll pass the ideas along to Mr. Jones, Larry, but don't think that this will open The Shadow up to other powers, like flying, for instance. I can't see that fedora being very aerodynamic!

—Dan Thorsland

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next issue!

NEXT ISSUE: A brilliant and famous German physicist—on the run from the Nazis—turns to the Shadow for protection from the mysterious Gestapo agents on his trail. Can even the Dark Avenger help when there's an entire luxury oceanliner full of suspects?! Join us next issue, when guest scribe Elliot S. Maggin and our regular artists, Rod and Gerry, answer that question...and *more.*

By the way, Gerard Jones returns the following issue...and so does the Shadow's greatest foe. See you then.

—Brian Augustyn